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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

I wonder if there has ever been a greater misapplication of the law than the DOJ action against Microsoft? Certainly the consumer has not been harmed by this company. Could there ever have been personal computers costing less than \$1,000 with the capacity of today's machines without Microsoft? If you understand the dynamics of the computer business you would have to say, "NO."

The idea that with more competition in operating system software, there MIGHT have been more benefit to the consumer is ludicrous. The industry needed one stable target for which to build hardware and write application software. The operating system was the one logical target.

Had there been two or more truly competitive operating systems, the efforts of the hardware builders and application software writers would have been diluted, available budgets would have been stretched too thin, market sizes reduced and a huge element of confusion introduced. The reason there was only one operating system is that the industry could afford to work with only one operating system and still move at the blistering pace that provided inexpensive, powerful machines. Over the years it was Microsoft which took the right risks, made the right decisions and drove their work force to make the right solutions to earn being the provider of that operating system.

It is time to resolve this fiasco by our government. Microsoft should have been found innocent by the courts. But because of a rogue trial judge and political fears within the appellate court, that is not going to happen. Take the "ounce of flesh" by causing Microsoft to supply the software to our less fortunate educational institutions and let's get on with life.

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